IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

NATALIE ZILBERSHTEIN 24/5 Zumershtein Street Netanya, Israel

And

ELI BOKOBZA 24/5 Zumershtein Street Netanya, Israel

And

E.N2.L.2 INVESTMENTS, LLC 24/5 Zumershtein Street Netanya, Israel

Plaintiffs

v.

IPP USA LLC, 1714 Memphis St Apt C8, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19125, United States

and

ABC CAPITAL RE, LTD. 1218 Marshall St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

LEGACY RENTALS PHILLY LLC 1218 Marshall St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

JASON WALSH 1218 Marshall St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT No.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

ABC CAPITAL RE, 1218 Marshall St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

ABC CAPITAL REALTY, LLC 305 N. 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

ABC CAPITAL BALTIMORE, LLC 2901 Whittington Ave Ste J Baltimore, MD, 21230-1460

and

GIOVANNI REAL ESTATE, LLC 1218 Marshall St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

ABC HORIZON, LLC, 1218 Marshall St. Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

PHILLY METRO BUILDERS, LLC 4235 Main Street Philadelphia, PA 19127

and

ABC CAPITAL FINANCE, LLC 1218 N. Marshall Street Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

ABC CAPITAL HOLDINGS, LLC 1218 N. Marshall Street Philadelphia, PA 19122 and

ABC CAPITAL INCOME FUND, LLC 1218 N. Marshall Street Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

AMIR VANA 305 N. 3rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

YARON ZER 305 N. 3rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19122

and

John Does 1-10

Defendants

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Natalie Zilbershtein, Eli Bokobza, and E.N2.L2 Investments LLC (hereinafter "Plaintiffs") hereby complains as follows against Defendants ABC Capital Re Ltd, and its associated entities and individuals (hereinafter "Defendants") for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, fraud, violations of Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law ("UTPCPL"), and violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO").

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiffs initiate the instant action to redress violations by Defendants of the UTPCPL, RICO, breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and fraud. Defendants constituted a corrupt enterprise under RICO ("RICO Enterprise"), designed to defraud individual by

marketing to them "one-stop," "hands-off" investments in "income-producing properties," i.e., rental properties. In short, the RICO enterprise promised investors like Plaintiffs that in exchange for the purchase price of a rental property, the RICO enterprise would renovate the property, rent the property, and manage the property. In addition, the RICO enterprise guaranteed the rental income for the first twelve months, and allowed the investor to purchase additional guaranteed rental income. In reality, the RICO enterprise would not conduct the promised renovations and would not rent the property. On information and belief, the RICO enterprise operated as a pyramid scheme, such that new investors money was being paid to pay prior investors' guaranteed rental income. Plaintiff purchased a rental property in Philadelphia pursuant to the RICO scheme, and has suffered damages as detailed below.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 367.
- 3. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants' contacts with this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of personal jurisdiction to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
- 4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district and Defendants are deemed to reside where it is subject to personal jurisdiction, rendering Defendants residents of this judicial district.

PARTIES

5. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

- 6. Plaintiff Natalie Zilbershtein is an adult individual and Israeli citizen, with an address as set forth in the caption.
- 7. Plaintiff Eli Bokobza is an adult individual and Israeli citizen, with an address as set forth in the caption.
- 8. Plaintiff E.N2.L2 LLC is a limited liability company whose sole members are Plaintiff Zilbersthein and Plaintiff Bokobza.
- 9. Defendant IPP USA, LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 10. Defendant ABC Capital RE LTD is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 11. Defendant Legacy Rentals Philly LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 12. Defendant ABC Capital Realty, LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 13. Defendant Giovanni Real Estate, LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.

- 14. Defendant ABC Horizon LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 15. Defendant ABC Capital Finance, LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 16. Defendant ABC Capital Holdings, LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 17. Defendant ABC Capital Income Fund, LLC is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 18. Defendant Philly Metro Builders, LLC, formerly known and registered as Home Cash 1031, LLC, is a limited liability company existing by virtue of and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its primary place of business at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise.
- 19. Defendant Jay Walsh is an adult individual with a primary workplace at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise. As Defendant Jay Walsh was the "Co-Founder" of ABC Capital Investments, LLC, the original "ABC" entity, it is believed and therefore averred that Defendant Jay Walsh is personally knowledgeable of the "pattern of racketeering activities" described herein.

- 20. Defendant Amir Vana is an adult individual with a primary workplace at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise. As Defendant, Amir Vana was the "Co-Founder" of ABC Capital Investments, LLC, the original "ABC" entity, it is believed and therefore averred that Defendant, Amir Vana is personally knowledgeable of the "pattern of racketeering activities" described herein.
- 21. Defendant Yaron Zer is an adult individual with a primary workplace at the above-captioned address and is a member of the RICO Enterprise. As Defendant Yaron Zer was the "Co-Founder" of ABC Capital Investments, LLC, the original "ABC" entity, it is believed and therefore averred that Defendant Yaron Zer is personally knowledgeable of the "pattern of racketeering activities" described herein.
- 22. Defendants, John Does 1-10, is a moniker/fictitious name for individuals and entities currently unknown but will be substituted when known, as affiliated, associated or liable hereunder for the reasons set forth below or inferred therefrom. Each of these parties are incorporated as Defendants in each and every count and averment listed above and below. Upon information and belief, Defendants, John Does, were agents, servants, workmen, employees, affiliates, and/or co-conspirators of Co-Defendant(s) and/or members of the RICO Enterprise, liable to Plaintiffs hereunder.
- 23. The term RICO Enterprise as used herein will refer collectively to Defendants identified above as members of the RICO enterprise.
- 24. At all times relevant herein, Defendant acted by and through its agents, servants, and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and the scope of their employment with and for Defendant.

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FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 25. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 26. In late 2016, Plaintiffs learned of a "guaranteed investment opportunity" in which ABC Capital Investments and/or other members of the RICO enterprise would provide guaranteed annual returns on income-producing properties.
- 27. Plaintiffs inquired further, and learned that the ABC entities sold rental properties to individuals in which, in exchange for a single purchase price, ABC would: (a) select and coordinate the purchase of a rental property in Baltimore; (b) coordinate a full renovation of the property to be completed within 60 days, including a new roof with a 15-year warranty, plumbing, electrical, suppling new appliances, including water heaters and boilers, with 60-days; (c) manage the property, including finding tenants, with the cost of finding tenants borne by ABC for the first year; (d) guarantee the rental income for a year.
- 28. Plaintiffs reviewed ABC Capital's website, which disclosed that the return on investment was 10%-40%.
- 29. Plaintiffs communicated with Defendant Yaron Zer who explained to Plaintiffs the details set forth above, and further explained that the RICO enterprise would assist Plaintiffs in setting up a United States company, Plaintiff E.N2.L2 Investments LLC.
- 30. Pursuant to and in reliance of the representations from Defendant Zer and the information on ABC's website, on or around October 10, 2016, Plaintiffs, through E.N2.L.2 Investments LLC, entered a contract of sale in which they believed they had purchased 3575 Dudley Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213 ("3575 Dudley") from ABC Capital Baltimore, LLC for \$91,500, and agreed to retain ABC Capital Baltimore LLC as the property manager with responsibility for renovating the property and renting the property.

- 31. As part of the sale, ABC Capital Baltimore LLC represented that it had the same ownership in ABC Horizons LLC, ABC Capital Investments, LLC, ABC Capital Realty, LLC, Giovanni Real Estate LLC, New Philly Construction LLC, and Legacy Holdings, LLC, and all entities jointly and severally warranted the property disclosure attached to the contract of sale.
- 32. After the purported sale, Plaintiffs learned that the renovations had not commenced and the apartment had not been rented.
- 33. After further inquiry prompted by Defendants' apparent breach, Plaintiffs learned that the title and deed to 3575 Dudley had never been transferred from the ABC entities to Plaintiffs.
- 34. Plaintiffs learned from other individuals who had entered into real estate contracts with Defendants that Defendants were running a corrupt scheme in which it was selling rental properties to individuals, especially foreign nationals, promising to renovate, rent, and manage the properties, but in actually leaving the residences unrenovated and only paying the single year of guaranteed rental income.
- 35. On or around July 28, 2019, Plaintiffs demanded a refund of their purchase money plus \$5500 for other costs incurred by and through an Israeli attorney Rami Sadeh.
- 36. In response, Defendants attempted to secure a general release ("Release Agreement") from Plaintiffs related to the property and to make Plaintiffs covenant to bring any claim for breach of the settlement agreement in arbitration to be conducted in Philadelphia, PA in exchange for equal monthly payments of \$7625 for a period of 15 months, for a total of \$91,500.
- 37. Defendants negotiated a joint release with Plaintiffs and two other Israeli investors who were previous associates of Plaintiffs, Shlomy Erba and Temessgen Servetu.

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- 38. During the negotiation of the release, Plaintiffs learned from Sholom Erba and Temessgen Servetu that they had been similarly victimized by ABC's false representations about the risk-free nature of the investment, that the properties in question would be renovated and rented out, and also learned that, like them, Servetu had never even received the deed the properties they believed they had purchased from ABC.
- 39. Plaintiffs (through Plaintiff Zilbershtein), Erba, and Senvetu jointly signed the Release Agreement on September 5, 2019.
- 40. Defendants procured the general release and the arbitration agreement by fraud in the inducement, as Defendants never had any intention of complying with the agreement.
- 41. Defendants paid Plaintiffs \$7625 on September 24, 2019, another \$7625 on October 24, 2019, and an additional \$15,250 on March 3, 2020, but made no further payments pursuant to the Release.
- 42. On June 8, 2020, Erba reached out to ABC's counsel, Andrew Swain, inquiring as to the reason for the breach.
- 43. Swain responded by email on June 8, 2020, stating that "COVID-19 closed all regional real estate companies months ago" and that ABC had not been able to make the payments due to COVID-19 but ABC stands committed to fulfilling its obligations, but it would "be several months before business resumes and likely 6 months before it returns as before."
 - 44. Swain further stated that he would keep Erba updated on payments.
 - 45. Erba provided this information to Plaintiffs.
- 46. Plaintiffs have not heard any further information from Defendants in relation to their breach.

47. Defendant has made no other efforts to cure or explain the reason for the continuing breach of the settlement agreement.

RICO ENTERPRISE ALLEGATIONS

- 48. ABC Capital Investments, LLC was founded by Defendants Jay Walsh, Amir Vana, and Yaron Zer in or around March 2011.
- 49. Over the following decade, ABC Capital Investments, LLC, at the direction of, inter alia, Defendants, Jay Walsh, Amir Vana, and Yaron Zer, created a network of ABC affiliates that work in conjunction with each other in the Miami, Baltimore, and Philadelphia markets, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Defendant ABC Capital RE LTD, which, upon information and belief, focuses of the purchase, sale, and management of real estate in the greater Philadelphia area;
 - b. Defendant ABC Capital Baltimore, LLC, which, upon information and belief,
 focuses of the purchase and sale of real estate in the greater Baltimore area;
 - c. Defendant, ABC Capital Miami, LLC, which, upon information and belief, focuses of the purchase and sale of real estate in the greater Miami area;
 - d. Defendant, ABC Management Baltimore, LLC, which, upon information and belief, focuses of the renovation and management of real estate in the greater Baltimore area; and,
 - e. Defendant, Philly Metro Builders, LLC, which, upon information and belief, focuses of the renovation of real estate in the greater Philadelphia area.
- 50. It is believed and therefore averred that Defendants, ABC Capital Finance, LLC, ABC Capital Holdings, LLC, ABC Capital Income Fund, LLC, and ABC Capital Realty, LLC

are all additional members of RICO Enterprise that serve "back-office", rather than client-facing, aspects of the RICO Enterprise.

51. Defendant, ABC Capital RE, LTD currently maintains a website at www.abccapitalinvestments.com, which, as of July 22, 2022, represents to prospective clients that:

ABC Capital RE, LTD offers a totally passive way to hold Real Estate. No physical or administrative involvement is required from our clients. By working with ABC, you retain legal control through your own entity or in your personal name but we handle the rest of your affairs if you wish. Everything regarding your property is cared for by ABC Capital RE, LTD.

52. Defendant, ABC Capital RE, LTD's website, as of July 22, 2022, further explains on its "About ABC Capital" page that:

ABC Capital RE, LTD is a one-stop shop for overseas and US real estate clients. We locate, renovate, and manage properties for hands off international/national clients. You do not have the risk of buying securities but instead your real estate properties remain in your own separate legal entity. ABC has presented our unique value proposition all over the world including cities and countries such as London, Singapore, Tel Aviv, Monaco, and New York. Our rental properties are cash-flow producing in the Philadelphia residential markets.

53. Defendant, ABC Capital RE, LTD's website, as of July 22, 2022, represents how it works:

- 1. Choose your income property ABC researches and locates the best rental properties to compliment our investor's needs and portfolio. Our clients just need to select a property from our stock. Normal range for our properties is from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- 2. We renovate it for you The ABC Capital RE, LTD team will renovate your property in a maximum of 120 days. Our team has renovated and developed over 1,000 properties. You will receive a finished product with no effort on your part. The normal cost of our renovations range from \$35,000 to \$100,000. The cost of renovation is guaranteed by ABC Capital RE, LTD.
- 3. Start receiving your rental income You will receive your first monthly payment never later than 121 days after your purchase and every 30 days thereafter via electronic funds transfers. First year rent income is guaranteed and starting the second year you may be able to get rent insurance if you so choose. Return on Investments are 14%+ yearly, in addition to property appreciation.

54. Defendant, ABC Capital RE, LTD's current website, as of July 22, 2022, further represents to prospective clients the following "Highlights":

Home Warranty – We fully renovate the properties, including a new roof with a 15-year warranty, but clients also receive a 1-year home warranty (from June 2016, it will only be 6 months) that covers your property for all damages and repairs needed within the first year of your purchase. No maintenance expenses during the first year!

Rent Protect – ABC Capital ensures that your monthly payment is delivered to you without fail. Yes, a guarantee that payments are made to you for the first year after purchase. You may choose to pay for that insurance (if available) in the 2nd and succeeding years.

Electronic Monthly Payments – Every month, your Return On Investment is sent to you via electronic funds transfer. Just provide us with the proper wiring instructions and your payments are sent automatically.

55. Defendant, ABC Capital RE, LTD's website, as of July 22, 2022, also explained its "Full Renovations" to prospective clients, stating:

After you purchase a property from our catalog, our sister company, Philly Metro Builders will conduct a FULL renovation. This includes new boiler and new roofing (15 years warranty), so the property will have very little or no maintenance during the next years. The full renovation is conducted in less than 90 days after the purchase of your home.

- 56. Plaintiffs reasonably and justifiably relied on the representations from Defendants as well as the representations viewed on ABC Capital's website in deciding to invest funds with ABC Capital Investments.
 - 57. However, Defendants never made any effort to rent out Plaintiffs' property.
- 58. It is believed and averred that the RICO Enterprise operated a Ponzi-like scheme or practice, where it would use the funds of new investors, including funds earmarked for renovations of those new properties, to make the guaranteed rental payments to prior investors and/or to buy-back prior investors' properties.

- 59. It is further believed and averred that the Ponzi scheme began to collapse after a RICO lawsuit was filed against some or all of the Defendants in this Court, Docket No. 19-6116.
- 60. It is further believed and averred that the Buy-Back and Agreement Defendants sought to have Plaintiffs sign was part of the RICO Enterprise and intended to avoid litigation and keep the details of the Ponzi scheme secret.
- 61. The same Buy-Back and Agreement was entered into with additional victims of the RICO Enterprise, Shlomy Erba and Temessgen Senvetu.
- 62. Erba and Senvetu had attempted to buy properties in Philadelphia, PA and Baltimore, MD from ABC Capital Investments.
- 63. Based on written representations from ABC Capital Investments, provided to Erba and Senvetu by mail and/or wires, Erba and Senvetu tendered money to ABC Capital Investments for the purchase of property and the renovation of property.
 - 64. On information and belief, the RICO Enterprise absconded with all such funds.
- 65. Erba and Senvetu were also not fully compensated the amounts promised in the Release.
- 66. On information and belief, a similar Agreement and Buy-Back deal was offered to Dr. Jose Michan-Levy when Michan-Levy complained about the RICO scheme in May 2020.
- 67. Accordingly, Defendants operation of a scheme to secure money from investors to buy distressed and unoccupied properties with the false promise to renovate, facilitated with the use of the mail and the wires, constitutes a pattern of racketeering activity as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1961.
- 68. One or more members of the RICO Enterprise, believed to include, but not limited to Defendants Jay Walsh, Amir Vana, and Yaron Zer knew and intended for Plaintiff's

property to not be renovated and instead knowingly directed the RICO Enterprise to use the rehabilitation sums to pay prior investors the guaranteed rental income payments.

- 69. One or more members of the RICO Enterprise, believed to include, but not limited to Defendants Jay Walsh, Amir Vana, and Yaron Zir knew and intended to buy-back Plaintiffs' property and offer (but not pay) Plaintiffs' an additional payment in exchange for a release so that the RICO Enterprise could continue to use new investors rehabilitation sums to pay prior investors the guaranteed rental income payments.
- 70. On or around November 15, 2022, in response to several RICO lawsuits being filed against the RICO enterprise, and to forestall a trial in American Hypnotherapy Society LLC v. ABC Capital Investment, LLC, 2:19-cv-06116-RBS, three members of the RICO enterprise declared bankruptcy, ABC Capital Investment, LLC, New Philly Construction, LLC, and Stateside ("Bankrupt ABC Entities).
 - 71. Plaintiffs have not named the three Bankrupt ABC Entities in the instant matter.
- 72. Defendant Jay Walsh has represented to the press that the ABC entities are no longer a going concern, but that he is currently engaged in the same business through Defendant IPP USA, LLC.
 - 73. As a result of Defendant's unlawful actions, Plaintiff has suffered damages.

COUNT I

<u>Violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO")</u> (Against all Defendants)

- 74. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- 75. Defendants acted together to form an association-in-fact for the common and continuing purpose to defraud persons, including but not limited to Plaintiffs, through a Ponzilike scheme surrounding income producing properties.

- 76. Defendants, myriad different companies with interlocking owners and officers, formed an enterprise and association-in-fact with an ascertainable authority structure separate and distinct from any formal structure, i.e., the RICO Enterprise.
- 77. The RICO Enterprise, knowingly, fraudulently, deceptively, and unlawfully engaged in the affairs of the RICO Enterprise through a "pattern of racketeering activities", that is believed to be ongoing, as that term is defined for purpose of the RICO Act. See 18 U.S.C. §1961(1).
- 78. The RICO Enterprise engaged in a pattern of indictable conduct, including conduct indictable under 18 U.S.C. 1341 (relating to mail fraud), 18 U.S.C. 1343 (relating to wire fraud), and 18 U.S.C. 1952 (relating to racketeering) in that the RICO Enterprise made use of the facilities of interstate commerce in furtherance of its Ponzi-like scheme to defraud individuals, including, but not limited to, Plaintiffs herein, Erba and Senvetu, as well as the thirty-three plaintiffs in Alaphabet Philly, LLV, et al. v. ABC Capital Investments, LLC, et al (EDPA No. 19-6116), and the plaintiffs in *Michan-Levy, et al. v. ABC Capital Investments, et al.* (EDPA No. 21-01917).
- 79. Defendants misrepresented on their website and through communications to Plaintiffs that using them to purchase a rental property in Baltimore was a risk-free investment with a substantial ROI and would result in ownership of a renovated, rentable property.
- 80. Defendants further misrepresented that the purchase price of the property included money which would be spent on renovations.
- 81. Defendants made these representations over the wires through their website, via telephones, and via mail in connection with the real estate contract of sale they signed with Plaintiffs.

- 82. Defendants engaged in the same fraudulent transactions, using the wires and mail, with many other individuals.
 - 83. Defendants' records record the exact dates of each fraudulent transaction.
- 84. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have suffered damages.

COUNT II

<u>Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law</u> (Against Defendants ABC Capital Investments, LLC, ABC Capital Realty, LLC, Giovanni Real Estate LLC, New Philly Construction, LLC, Stateside Philly, LLC, ABC Capital RE, Ltd., Jason Walsh, Amir Vana, and Yaron Zer)

- 85. The foregoing paragraphs are fully incorporated herein as though set forth at length.
- 86. The Defendants domiciled in Pennsylvania jointly and severally controlled an enterprise, pursuant to which ABC Capital Investments, Inc., made fraudulent and deceptive misrepresentations designed to induce Plaintiffs to enter into a real estate purchase, property renovation, and property management agreement with Defendants.
- 87. The Defendants received money from Plaintiffs purportedly in exchange for the sale of a real estate property in Baltimore, Maryland, but never transferred the deed or title of the property to Plaintiffs, despite representing that they had.
- 88. Defendants' fraudulent misrepresentations regarding the true use of Plaintiffs' funds constitute and the fact that Defendants were not going to renovate Plaintiffs' property constitutes "unfair or deceptive acts or practices" as defined by 73 P.S. §201-2(4)(iv).
 - 89. Plaintiffs have suffered damages as a result of Defendants' deceptive practices.

COUNT III Breach of Contract (Sales Contract) (Against all Defendants)

- 90. The foregoing paragraphs are fully incorporated herein as though set forth at length.
- 91. Defendants contracted to sell Plaintiffs the property 3575 Dudley, received money from Plaintiffs in exchange for such sale, but never transferred the deed for the property to Plaintiffs.
- 92. Defendants contracted to renovate Plaintiffs' property so that it could be rented and made available, and that Plaintiffs could expect to realize an annual 10-15% return on investment if they purchased Defendant's property and services.
- 93. Defendants never intended to honor their contract with Plaintiffs, and accordingly, breached their duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- 94. Defendants did not renovate Plaintiffs' property, Plaintiffs were never able to rent the property, and Plaintiffs were unable to sell the property because Defendants had never transferred ownership of the property to Plaintiffs.
- 95. Accordingly, Defendants breached its contract with Plaintiffs in connection with the false sale, renovation, and management of the property by failing to perform the promises contained in that contract.
- 96. Moreover, Plaintiffs seek to pierce the corporate veil and hold the owners and the associated businesses liable for the breach perpetrated by Defendants, because Defendants have used their convoluted corporate structure to further their deceptive and unlawful scheme.

COUNT IV Breach of Contract / Rescission (Release Agreement) (Against all Defendants)

- 97. The foregoing paragraphs are fully incorporated herein as though set forth at length.
- 98. Defendants, which included ABC Capital Investments, and the owners, employees, members, and any entity related to ABC, agreed to pay Plaintiffs \$15,000, in monthly installments of \$1000, for fifteen months, in exchange for a general release of claims related to the Plaintiffs' property.
- 99. Defendants paid Plaintiffs \$4000, but have made no effort to pay the balance of \$11,000 since March 2020.
- 100. Defendants never intended to honor their contract with Plaintiffs, and accordingly, breached their duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- 101. Defendants fraudulently induced Plaintiffs to enter into the settlement agreement by failing to disclose the details of Defendants' Ponzi scheme and failing to disclose that Defendants never intended to honor their contract with Plaintiffs.
- 102. Defendants have also materially breached the agreement by failing to make any payments for more than two years.
 - 103. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to rescind the Release Agreement.

COUNT V Rescission of Contract (Arbitration Contract)

104. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated fully herein as though set forth at length.

- 105. Defendants provided in the Release Agreement that any litigation would be limited to arbitration in Philadelphia and that Pennsylvania law would apply to all substantive issues.
- 106. Defendants never intended to honor their contract with Plaintiffs, and misrepresented that they intended to comply with the contract so as to avoid litigation and disruption of their Ponzi scheme.
- 107. Moreover, the arbitration contract is substantively and procedurally unconscionable because it would require Plaintiff to pay to access the court system over a debt which might be limited to \$15,000, and Plaintiff lacks the funds to pay for arbitration.
- 108. Moreover, the contract is illegal because it was made to further Defendants Ponzi scheme which violates RICO, and to keep complaints about Defendants business practices quiet so that Defendants could continue duping new investors.
 - 109. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to rescind the Arbitration Agreement.

COUNT VI <u>Unjust Enrichment</u> (Against all Defendants)

- 110. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated fully herein as though set forth at length.
- 111. Defendants were unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff in so far as they forced Plaintiff to sell the property back to Defendants at a loss, at which point Defendants resold the property for an additional profit, and insofar as they kept \$35,000 in renovation payments for renovations which were never completed.
- 112. Defendants deprived Plaintiff of alternative investment options by tying up Plaintiff's principal for nearly three years.

113. Accordingly, Defendants have been unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs prays this Court enter an Order providing that:

A. Defendants are to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff, and make Plaintiff

whole for any and all damages Plaintiff suffered had it not been for Defendant's illegal actions,

including loss of value to property, out-of-pocket expenses, and lost rental income.

B. Plaintiff is to be awarded treble damages pursuant to RICO and the UTPCPL.

C. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court

deems just and appropriate;

D. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action, prejudgment

interest, and reasonable attorney's fees as provided by applicable law; and

E. Plaintiff's claims are to receive a trial by jury.

Respectfully Submitted,

SWARTZ SWIDLER, LLC

/s/ Joshua Boyette

Joshua S. Boyette Esq.

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Date: December 28, 2022

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